



Resources

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Revelation 17

[1] Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, [2] with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." [3] And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. [4] The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. [5] And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." [6] And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. [7] But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. [8] The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. [9] This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; [10] they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. [11] As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. [12] And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. [13] These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. [14] They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

[15] And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. [16] And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, [17] for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. [18] And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth." (ESV)

Sermon Outline:

1. The Introduction/Description of the Prostitute & the Beast (1-6)
2. The Description of the Beast (7-14)
3. The Destruction of the Prostitute (15-18)





Life Group Leader Notes:

•In the first verse, one of the angels showed John the *judgment* of the great prostitute. But when he arrived at the scene *it did not look like judgment...* At least not yet. She was arrayed in scarlet and indulging in pleasures. The book of Revelation is important because it helps us see judgment where it is not evident on the surface. Can you see judgment in our current world of greed and sexual immorality? Read Psalm 73 as a life group and discover how the psalmist developed this discipline.

•When we discover what is in the harlot's cup (abominations & impurities), we realize that sin is both *enticing* and *repulsing*. Sin leads us to our own destruction. Discuss a few passages or stories from the Bible where this is on display. Are you growing in your repulsion of sin or do you tend to focus on the enticing nature of sin?

•In verse 7, the angel told John that he would explain the mystery. But his explanation was just as challenging to interpret. Even after a week of study, Pastor Scott admitted some confusion about this paragraph, which some call the most challenging in the book. In your daily study of God's word, you will encounter difficult or confusing passages. This has caused many to walk away from the faith, but this is not our only option. Have a discussion on the best way to navigate tricky passages in the Bible.

•In verse 14, the angel says that those who are with the lamb are *called*, *chosen*, and *faithful*. How do the first two titles (called & chosen) encourage believers to remain faithful through intense suffering? If you are brave and your group can handle it, discuss verse 8, which talks about the names being written in the book of life *from the foundation of the world*. How would that truth have encouraged the church in a wicked society that wanted to blot them out? How does this encourage you?

•The blood of Jesus delivers us from the city of man into the city of God. But is it possible to bring Babylon's values & lifestyle into the church? Spend some time in Galatians chapter 5, verses 13 to 26. What does the "free Christian life" look like in practice? How does this look different from the world's definition of "freedom"?

•How can your life group live as citizens of the New Jerusalem in Babylon? Try to draw out specific, practical examples that you can put into practice this week.

